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SCOTT DEPOT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION CHARGE

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Daniel Seth Fleshman, 43, of Scott Depot, West Virginia, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers, to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Fleshman admitted that on or about September 8, 2010, he sold a 9-millimeter semiautomatic pistol to an undercover agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in Huntington. The defendant was convicted of attempt to commit a felony in the Circuit Court of Cabell County in February 2008. On or about September 16 and 28, October 15, and November 17, 2010, Fleshman admitted to distributing quantities of morphine to an undercover ATF agent in Huntington. Fleshman further admitted to distributing quantities of oxycodone to an undercover ATF agent in September and October 2010.

Fleshman faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on September 6, 2011.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Huntington Police Department conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Josh Hanks is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

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CHARLESTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL OXYCODONE CHARGE

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Stephen Trent Johnson, 41, of Charleston, pleaded guilty today in federal court before United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston, to possession with intent to distribute 28 grams or more of cocaine base. Johnson admitted that on June 14, 2010, he sold 2.78 grams of cocaine base to a confidential informant working with the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT) in Charleston. Johnson further admitted to agreeing to sell the informant 40 grams of crack cocaine. Officers subsequently placed the defendant under arrest at the Taco Bell restaurant in Charleston on an outstanding warrant. A search incident to arrest revealed 37.3 grams of crack cocaine in the defendant's pocket. Johnson admitted that he intended to distribute the crack to the confidential informant.

Johnson faces up to 40 years in prison and a \$2 million fine when he is sentenced on August 22, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT). Assistant United States Attorney Monica Dillon is in charge of the prosecution.

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FAYETTE COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION CHARGE

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Charles Anthony Jones, 31, of Scarbro, Fayette County, West Virginia, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston, to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Jones admitted that on December 21, 2010, he possessed a .40 caliber pistol at his Fayette County residence. Jones further admitted that the .40 caliber firearm had an obliterated serial number. The same day, police executed a search warrant and seized the firearm from the defendant's residence. Jones was convicted of various criminal offenses in Circuit Court of Raleigh County in April 2001 and had not had his right to possess a firearm restored.

Jones faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on August 22, 2011.

The Fayette County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Monica Schwartz is in charge of the prosecution.

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